

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 FEA-02

CIEP-02 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 DODE-00 EPA-04

INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01

SCI-06 SS-20 SPC-03 SAM-01 DRC-01 /152 W

----- 107785

R 082045Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9800

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 598

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENGR, DR

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM REFINERY: PUERTO RICAN SUPERPORT

1. THE TECHNICAL COMMISSION APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO HOLD TALKS WITH A PUERTO RICAN TECHNICAL GROUP ABOUT THE SUPERPORT PROJECT ON MONA ISLAND HAS MADE ITS FIRST REPORT. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS ON FEB 7, THE DOMINICAN COMMISSION CONCLUDES (1) THAT THE PROPOSED MONA ISLAND SUPERPORT AND REFINERY REPRESENTS A PERMANENT HAZARD TO THE WATER AND LAND RESOURCES OF THE EAST AND SOUTH COASTS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; (2) THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PUERTO RICO, REALIZING THIS HAZARD, HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE OF A POSSIBLE BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN PUERTO RICO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WHICH MIGHT CONTAIN CLAUSES COVERING ECONOMIC COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES AND RESTORATIONS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FROM OPERATION OF THE SUPERPORT; AND (3) THAT SHOULD THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LARGE REFINERY OR PETROCHEMICAL INSTALLATION ON ITS OWN TERRITORY, PARTICULARLY ON THE SOUTHWEST COAST, THE REPUBLIC CAN EXPECT SIMILAR PROTESTS FROM HAITI, JAMAICA, AND OTHER TERRITORIES SOUTHWEST OF HISPANOLA.

2. THE DOMINICAN REPORT ALSO GIVES THE FOLLOWING DATA ON THE MONA PROJECT: REFINERY CAPACITY OF 500,000 B/D; ESTIMATED COST AT UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUT 1.2 BILLION DOLLARS (\$128 MILLION ABOVE COSTS FOR THE SAME

PROJECT ON THE WEST COAST OF THE MAIN ISLAND). DOMINICANS
APPEAR TO HAVE QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY PUERTO RICANS ON THE SELECTION
OF MONA ISLAND AND CONCLUDE THAT CHOICE WAS MADE FOR REASONS OF
INTERNAL PUERTO RICAN POLITICS. ALSO, ACCORDING TO THE DOMINICANS,
ABOUT THE ONLY REAL DECISIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE MONA
PROJECT ARE ITS APPROXIMATE SIZE AND ITS LOCATION.

3. COMMENT: THE COMMISSION'S REPORT SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT
THE DOMINICANS MAY HAVE LESS STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THE MONA ISLAND
PROJECT THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED IF THEY GET WRITTEN GUARANTEES FROM
PUERTO RICO FOR COMPENSATION IN THE EVENT OF DAMAGES TO DOMINICAN
TERRITORY. NO DATE HAS YET BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR THE SECOND MEETING
OF THE COMMISSIONS WHICH IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE
IN PUERTO RICO SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLLUTION, PETROLEUM REFINING, PORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO00598
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740245/aaaabqeh.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 FEB 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <29 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PETROLEUM REFINERY: PUERTO RICAN SUPERPORT
TAGS: ENRG, DR, RQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005